## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Jennifer Ying, during the telephone conference of March 21, 2007, in which the March 15, 2007 Advisory Action was discussed.

### Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8 and 9-18 are pending.

Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claims 16 and 17 have been added. Support for added claims 16-18 can be found in the Specification, page 5, lines 12-16 and in Figures 2 and 3.

No new matter has been added.

### Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, contending that the feature of "a hole" recited in claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 has not been illustrated. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 recite "said drive shaft rotatably engages a hole formed on an end of said crankshaft in order to support another end of the drive shaft." Applicants submit herewith, in **Attachment A**, a copy of Figure 2. In the copy of Figure 2 in Attachment A, Applicants have noted where the hole recited in claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 is illustrated. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the drawings illustrate each and every feature recited in the claims.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 1, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

With respect to the features of a common axis recited in claims 1 and 12, the Examiner contends that the phrase "about a common axis" is unclear. The Examiner states that the phrase "is interpret [sic] as not on the same axis, therefore they are [sic] must be in parallel axes which is the same situation as in the cited reference." (Detailed Action, page 8, Item 7, lines 4-5.)

As discussed in previous telephone conferences with both the Examiner and his Supervisor, Examiner Jack Keith, Applicants note that the term "about a common axis" is well-understood to mean that the two entities will rotate around the same axis. Furthermore, Applicants note that the drive shaft 6 and the crankshaft 12 are illustrated as being positioned on a common axis in Figure 2. Applicants further noted that the claim language does **not** recite that the drive shaft and crankshaft are concentric with each other. Therefore, while the illustration in Figure 2 does not depict the drive shaft 6 and the crankshaft 12 as being perfectly aligned with each other about a vertical line, this does not imply that the two shafts 6, 12 cannot rotate about the same axis.

With respect to the features of a vertical plane recited in claims 12 and 13, the Examiner contends that the phrase "the vertical plane intersects" is vague, since a plurality of vertical planes can exist.

Applicants submit that the gears 8, 8 are symmetric about the vertical plane, and thus, the vertical plane must be located equidistant between the two gears 8, 8. Therefore, the "vertical

plane" recited in claim 12 must refer to the vertical plane that is positioned equidistant between the gears 8, 8.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-8 and 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application No. 1,075,931 to Jurgen. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 13 recite that "said drive shaft and said crankshaft rotate about a common axis." As discussed above, a "common axis" is well-known in the art to be the same axis. Therefore in the invention recited in the claims, the drive shaft and crankshaft rotate about the same axis.

In contrast, Jurgen neither discloses, nor suggests, that "said drive shaft and said crankshaft rotate about a common axis," as recited in independent claims 1 and 13. Rather, Jurgen discloses that the drive shaft 31 is in parallel with the eccentric shaft 11, and thus, Jurgen's drive shaft 31 and eccentric shaft 11 rotate on parallel axes. *See*, Jurgen, Figures 1 and 2.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Jurgen fails to disclose each and every feature recited in claims 1 and 13. Therefore, Jurgen does not anticipate the invention recited in claims 1 and 13.

Claims 2-8, 10-11, and 14-15 depend from claim 1. Claim 12 depends from claim 13. Applicants submit that claims 2-8, 10-12, and 14-15 are patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to their respective base claim.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

**Added Claims**

New claims 16-18 are directed to a mechanical press wherein the crankshaft and drive shaft rotate about an axis of rotation. Applicants submit that new claims 16 – 18 are patentable over the prior art of record.

## CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Final Office Action dated November 6, 2006 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-8 and 10-18 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: April 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By

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# Attachment A

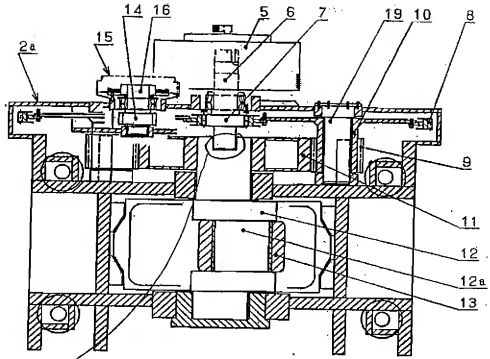


Fig. 2

hole formed on an end of the crankshaft 12